



Our Future Together: A Vision for a reNEWed Minnesota

Context

We have inherited so much good from the people who came before us and we will continue building on that foundation. We also inherit a legacy and ongoing practice of injustice that must be addressed. The decisions we make today will dictate the quality of our lives together and those of generations to come. We create the future for our children's children.

We make these decisions at a crossroads. Minnesota has a proud tradition of community, of helping one another, and of understanding that "we all do better when we all do better."

But in the last 20 years, a damaging ideology has gained increasing power in Minnesota government. It has strained our families, divided our neighborhoods, and created needless suffering throughout our state. The future on this path promises further isolation, deprivation and pain.

The ideology we reject

We reject the ideology of "you're on your own" – the idea that we are better off when competing against each other for our individual lot in life.

We reject the ideology that says markets can solve all problems and that our government can solve none.

We reject the ideology that denies the ongoing impacts of racism in our society.

We reject the politics of "except" – a politics that says some people are not deserving of full participation in our society.

We reject the idea that people should get as much as they can for themselves with no thought to their neighbor.

**These Are The Beliefs We Are United On.
This is the Minnesota We Want To Live In.**

WE WANT TO LIVE IN a Minnesota Where We Are All In This Together

We recognize that we do not live in isolation. We are an interconnected and interdependent people. From our family farms and rural towns to our suburbs and cities, we rise together or fall together as a state, not as individuals. We believe community is vital to rebuilding and revitalizing our state. Our problems are experienced together. Our solutions must be created together.

WE WANT TO LIVE IN a Minnesota Where We Make Decisions Now to Improve the Lives of Our Children's Children

We believe our land, natural resources and social values were passed on to us and are the legacy we leave for future Minnesotans. We must leave a better world for those who come after us.

WE WANT TO LIVE IN a Minnesota Where the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person Is Recognized Without Exception.

We all benefit when every person has the opportunity to fully participate in every part of our society: from marrying the person they love in a civil ceremony, to participating in our democratic decision making structures. We believe we all have a responsibility to contribute our love, talents, energy and creativity with our family, friends and community without exception.

WE WANT TO LIVE IN a Minnesota Where We Embrace a Politics of Inclusion and Justice for All.

Racism is experienced every day in Minnesota through unequal access to material and social resources. We believe every child born and every newly arrived resident should benefit equally from our quality of life and have the power to make our state better. We believe in a Minnesota where the values, traditions and contributions of Native Americans, Hmong, African-Americans, Somalis, Latinos and all immigrants and people of color are valued and respected. We commit to eradicate racism in our society today and to undo the continued impacts of past racism.

WE WANT TO LIVE IN a Minnesota Where There Is A Fair, Equitable Economy That Benefits Everyone

Minnesota is a wealthy state – financially and in our material, social, and natural capital. We believe that workers should be able to meet their basic needs through the wages they earn. We are also responsible for those unable to work, for we are truly free only when economic insecurity and social anxiety are alleviated for all of us and each of us can live our lives to our fullest potential. Alone, each of us is vulnerable. Together we bring boundless creativity and passion. And, if we use them well, we have abundant material resources to tackle the challenges we face as a society.

The Role of Our Elected Leaders in reNEWing Minnesota

We believe that the point of winning elections is to enact positive change in the lives of Minnesotans. We need bold visionary leaders whose mission is to advance our shared values.

We need a governor who will not govern alone. We need a governor who will work with a powerful economic, social, racial justice movement to implement our shared vision. We need a governor who will strengthen our collective democratic institutions—our government institutions as well as our labor and community organizations.

We must also change how we act in our relationships with elected officials and among ourselves. Our next governor must co-govern with us, the people of Minnesota.

Conclusion:

The path toward a more just society and a more inclusive and vibrant Minnesota is ahead of us. One hundred years from now, our children's children will live their lives based on the decisions we make as a state now.

We commit ourselves to reNEWing Minnesota so that we will all rise together.

The choice is ours. We have the power.